

**The Benefice of All Saints', Highbrook
& St Margaret of Antioch, West Hoathly**

**Prayers and Readings for
The Second Sunday before Lent - 8th February 2026**

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever. Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 1.9-13

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Psalm 136

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, •
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, •

- for his mercy endures for ever.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 4 Who alone does great wonders, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 7 Who made the great lights, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 8 The sun to rule the day, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 10 Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 11 And brought out Israel from among them, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 12 With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 15 But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the Red Sea, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 16 Who led his people through the wilderness, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 17 Who smote great kings, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
 - 18 And slew mighty kings, •
for his mercy endures for ever;

- 19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 20 And Og, the king of Bashan, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 21 And gave away their land for a heritage, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 22 A heritage for Israel his servant, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 24 And delivered us from our enemies, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 25 Who gives food to all creatures,
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, •
for his mercy endures for ever.

1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk?

Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever ploughs should plough in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not

know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is sacrificed on the altar? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

The Gospel

Matthew 6.25-end

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Prayer after Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth

be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross

and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.